

24 August 1960

CUBA

- I. Eighth national congress of Cuban Communists' Popular Socialist party (16 to 22 August) featured--as was expected--violent attacks on "Yankee imperialism," pleas for "unity" among forces of Cuban revolution, and statements of "solidarity with Cuba" by foreign Communist representatives
- A. Congress attended by at least 65 "fraternal delegates" from 31 foreign Communist parties, including most Bloc parties.
 - 1. But reports do not mention any USSR party representative.
 - B. Twelve-hour report by party secretary general Blas Roca emphasized party role in Castro revolution and criticized Cuba's continued lack of diplomatic relations with Peiping.
 - C. Chinese party central committee member General Wu Siu-chuan, who addressed congress on 20 August, praised Cuba for giving Latin Americans "brilliant example" in struggle for emancipation from US domination.
 - D. New party program urges action against remaining US-owned property, ouster of US from Guantanamo, and rapid completion of remodeling of government on Communist pattern.
 - E. Congress and party program received extensive favorable publicity in Cuba's controlled press.
- II. Complete purge of Cuban naval officer corps apparently now under way following 17 August government raid on Havana navy yard.
- A. Raid evidently stimulated by evidence or reports of anti-government plotting by Navy personnel.
 - B. With elimination of moderate elements in Navy, Castro's process of "revolutionizing" the armed forces will be complete.

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III. But evidences of other domestic opposition to government continue.

A. Small anti-Castro groups raided three army and militia garrisons in central provinces of Camaguey and Las Villas during past week. 25X1

1. Militia--which may now number as much as 200,000--is playing increasingly important role.

IV. And church-state friction is again on rise following Castro's 11 August attack on church hierarchy. 25X1

- B. Bishops may soon issue new and stronger pastoral letter on Communist influence in government.
- C. Church officials certain that Castro government inspiring and directing demonstrations against church attendants.
- D. Wounding and arrest of Jesuit priest by G-2 agents on 19 August may lead to more violence as news of incident spreads.